

INDEPENDENCE DAY IN RAIN.

CELEBRATION.

NUMEROUS PICNICS POSTPONED — DEFIANT
WHEELMEN DRENCHED AND BEDRAGGLED
— CEREMONIES IN THE PARK AND
AT THE BATTERY.

Rain interfered with the celebration of Independence Day in and out of the city. Thousands of flags were pulled in out of the wet, and those

which remained hung limp and useless for purposes of display. The downpour spoiled countless picnics and stopped many outings. Processions of wheelmen left the city early in the day and returned later drenched and bedraggled. People who went on excursions on trains and steamboats fared a little better, but lost much of their anticipated enjoyment. But the rain did not dampen the ardor of the small boy with firecrackers to any noticeable extent, as the six-day bang-hooray of his celebration went on incessantly from early morning until late at night.

The police made a few arrests, but they could not prevent the setting off of fireworks in the streets. The firemen blessed the rain because it lessened the number of awning fires and saved them many trips from the engine-houses. Timid owners of houses also were thankful for the wet, which decreased the danger from fires. As the gun from old Castle William boomed to announce the hour of sunrise the Andersons and Zouaves raised the Stars and Stripes over the Battery. When Old Glory swung to the breeze, the bands played the National anthem and the cheers of the spectators, who had already gathered in the park, rang forth.

Christopher R. Grant, great-grandson of Sergeant John Van Arsdel, manned the halyards. Comrade Charles Riker made a speech. The Society of the War of 1812 was represented by Charles C. Hamel, T. K. Chutkowski, H. S.

Story and Morris T. Ferris.

EARLY AT THE SPOT.

Four o'clock in the morning is the usual hour for raising the flag over the old blackhouse and Fort Fish, in Central Park, near One hundred-and-tenth-st., on each Fourth of July; but this year it was half an hour later when the National ensign fluttered in the breeze over

Nearly four hundred men, a few women and children turned out of their beds and made their way to Central Park just as the first rays of light appeared in a cloudy sky. These patriotic early risers walked up the winding rocky paths to the blockhouse and Fort Fisher to the sound of the fifes and drums of the Kilpatrick Post, No. 143 G. A. R., Fife and Drum Corps. Among the organizations present were the Continental Guards, with their uniforms of Colonial days; Washington Light

Infantry, Order of Foresters, Order of Red Men and the Naval Cadets.

At 4:35 the flag was hoisted by Captain John G. Norman, who has done the same thing for 25 years, amid the shouts of the Red Men and the cheers of all present.

Ex-Judge J. J. Mackey, formerly of South Carolina, and a captain in the Confederate

Army, then delivered a brief patriotic address on the "Glory of Our Flag and How It Came." Judge Mackey told of the patriotism and self-sacrifice of the Continental soldiers and the noble character of the statesmen who guided the early course of the young Republic. He spoke of the heroic efforts of Washington and his generals, of their hopes and fears, and of the disasters which seemed almost overwhelming. He described the battles of the Revolution and praised the bravery of the soldiers who fought then for liberty and American independence.

He ended his address with a stirring flag "that now floated over an undivided and patriotic people."

A stranger in the city who was out early might have thought that a large part of the populace was leaving the city, so steady was the stream of outgoers. The various excursion boats did a large business in the morning. The Coney Island, Rockaway, Long Branch and North Beach boats were loaded to their fullest capacity. Ladies' trains were doubly as frequent as

BICYCLISTS EVERYWHERE.
Devotees of the wheel were seen everywhere. Every avenue and street seemed to have its line of bicycles moving toward the country or the parks. Along Riverside Drive and the roads in the upper part of the city the wheelmen and wheelwomen fairly swarmed in the morning.

Many clubs and other organizations chose the day for their annual outing. Among them were the following: Meagher's Irish Brigade held

their annual reunion at a service held at the annual gathering of the New-York Scottish Celtic Society was held at Pleasant Valley Grove; the 2d New-York Fire Zouaves enjoyed the day at Camp Scott, on Staten Island, and St. Paul's Temperance Guild, attached to the Paulist Church, Fifty-ninth-st. and Columbus ave., went on the excursion to Cornwall-on-Hudson. As for small picnics, excursions and general outings, the day was remarkable.

and the horsecar lines profited as a result.

RAIN SPOILED BROOKLYN'S FUN.
DISAPPOINTED PLEASURE SEEKERS—SOME MINOR
CASUALTIES AND A FEW SMALL FIRES.

The rain spoiled a great deal of Fourth of July fun in Brooklyn yesterday. In the early forenoon

the cars bound for Manhattan and other pleasure resorts were crowded. Traffic began to diminish by 10:30 o'clock, and by noon cars returning from pleasure points held loads of people whose sour-looking faces betrayed their chagrin at the quality of weather sent by the fates. The small boy was not noticeably depressed by the damper.

ness. He got an early start under dry skies a daybreak, and his spirits never fell thereafter. When the rain drove him in, he stood in the shelter of the porch, the vestibule or the arway and let his enthusiasm hiss, pop and bang through

the medium of firecrackers, torpedoes and blank cartridge pistols, just as if Jupiter Pluvius's watering-pot had been hung up to dry. While his money lasted he complained "it's the game" and all through

the afternoon moisture his artillery sounded forth its joyous barks.

There was the usual quota of accidents, but comparatively few fires. A list of the casualties follows:

William Scully, of No. 480 St. Mark's-ave., and William Bayle, of Prospect Place, near Clason ave., were fooling with cannon crackers, when one of them exploded, setting fire to Scully and badly burning his chest.

Gussie Klatz, twelve years old, of No. 1,077 Flushing-ave., was watching some boys fire a cannon in front of her home, when it exploded, and she was thrown on the left side of the road.

She was removed to St. Catherine's Hospital.

William Evans, seventeen years old, of Logan-st. near Etna-ave., started out early to watch a ball game. He returned before noon with a battered head received in a quarrel over an umpire's decision.

Monks, thirteen years old of No. 153

Samuel Zarecki, twenty-two years old, of No. 411 Broadway, was watching a baseball match at the Stratoga-ave. and Halsey-st., when a foul lineer struck him on the nose, smashing it.

Thomas Madden, nineteen years old, of No. 900 Myrtle-ave., had his hand badly wounded by the premature discharge of a small cannon he was bring in front of his home.

William Petterson, of No. 425 Johnson-st., was riding in a Bushwick-ave. car early yesterday

The awning in front of a store at No. 227 John